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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Economic Information: The Hekren Explosives
Factory in South Siam

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1. The Makwon (樂園) Explosives Factory in South Siniiju, a few kilometers from Siniiju (Shingiasu) (126-24, 40-06) City, employs 700 men and 600 women, all of whom are Koreans. The factory is under the supervision of Yi Sun-kun (李淳根), a Korean. Assisting Yi are four Japanese technicians, one of whom is named MORIKOSHI (堀越).
2. Some of the raw materials needed by the factory are obtained from China; salt comes from North China and the Tsingtao area and sulphur from the Port Arthur area. The transportation of these materials from China to North Korea is handled by the Sung Min (興民) and Cho Sin (朝新) Companies of Siniiju. A convoy of seven or eight ships arrives in Yongampo (Yugampo) (124-22, 39-56) daily with raw materials intended for the Makwon Explosives Factory in South Siniiju. Members of the North Korean Peace Preservation Corps (Bo An Tso 保安隊) of Yongampo guard the ships while they are in port.
3. The production goal for 1948 of the Makwon Explosives Factory is 35,000 tons of explosives.

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